#### INFORMATION FOR NEWLY ARRIVED SWISS CITIZENS

# The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Embassies and Consulates introduce themselves

• The index of all representations is available on www.eda.admin.ch (Representations)

If you stay abroad for more than 12 months, you are obliged to register with the relevant Swiss representation. However, we recommend you to register for shorter stays as well. Your Embassy or Consulate acts as a Citizen Services Office as you know it from Switzerland. Your registration provides the basis for passport issues, transmission of civil status documents to the Swiss registers of civil status, etc.

#### Services to the public

· Swiss passports and ID cards

The Consular offices assist you in many different questions, such as:

- Civil status
- Citizenship
- Social welfare for Swiss citizens living abroad
- Take part in popular votes and elections in Switzerland

On the websites of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Embassies and Consulates (<a href="www.eda.admin.ch">www.eda.admin.ch</a> / Representations) you will find useful information and forms on those and other topics. For newly emigrated Swiss citizens we recommend the guidebook "Advice for Swiss abroad": (<a href="http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/doc/publi/ptrali.html">http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/doc/publi/ptrali.html</a>)

#### Please inform your Embassy/Consulate as soon as possible in the following cases:

- If your postal address, phone/cell number or e-mail address has changed
- Changes in your family's civil status (marriage, divorce, death in the family)
- Birth of your children
- If you acquire a foreign citizenship
- If you relocate outside of the region or country

## Swiss Review Official gazette of the Swiss Abroad



www.revue.ch

- The "Swiss Review" is published four to six times per year. It contains important information, such as changes of laws and deadlines concerning the Swiss citizens living abroad.
- The "Swiss Review" is sent electronically and free of charge to every adult Swiss citizen
  living and registered abroad, who provides an e-mail address upon registration. If you wish
  to receive the print edition instead, please specify it when registering with a Swiss
  representation, or register/change your preference at any time at www.swissabroad.ch.
- Households with more than one registered adult may receive the print edition of the Revue in multiple copies. In order to help limiting cost, you can stop multiple deliveries to your household. Please contact your Swiss Embassy or Consulate.

## The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)



• Founded in 1916, the OSA represents the interests of the Swiss expatriates worldwide, back home in Switzerland. The organization informs the Swiss abroad about what is happening in Switzerland and provides a wide selection of services.

More information: Organization of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Bern, Tel. +41 31 356 61 00, Fax +41 31 356 61 01, <a href="www.aso.ch">www.aso.ch</a>, <a href="mailto:info@aso.ch">info@aso.ch</a>,



 SwissCommunity.org connects Swiss people worldwide. Connect yourself with other Swiss expats wherever you are. Stay informed about relevant Swiss news and events. Get help finding a flat – or the best Fondue in town!
 Explore Switzerland: <a href="https://www.swisscommunity.org">www.swisscommunity.org</a>

#### Soliswiss



- Open access to the Cooperative Solidarity Fund of Swiss Nationals Abroad. Purpose: Lump sum compensation after loss of livelihood due to nationalization, expropriation, war, terrorism, asf.
- Soliswiss Ltd renders independent services as a broker for international health insurances, life and pension insurances, as well as wealth management in Switzerland.
- More information: Soliswiss, Gutenbergstrasse 6, P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern, Tel. +41 31 380 70 30, www.soliswiss.ch, inquiries at info@soliswiss.ch



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have strong ties to Switzerland. As a member, you receive the free publication "VISION", the
Swiss magazine for economy and innovation. As a non-member, you have access to useful
information (such as job advertisements in Switzerland and more).

#### **Social Insurance**



If you have any questions about the optional AHV, please contact the Swiss Compensation
Office SCO; Voluntary Insurance – Contributions; av. Edmond-Vaucher 18, P.O.Box 3100,
CH-1211 Geneva 2 – Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 795 91 11, Fax: +41 22 795 98 55, e-mail: csc-af@zas.admin.ch

For retirees: Swiss Compensation Office; av. Edmond-Vaucher 18, P.O. Box. 3100, CH-1211 Geneva 2 – Switzerland.
 Tel.: +41 22 795 99 79, Fax: +41 22 795 99 81, e-mail: sedmaster@zas.admin.ch

## Working and residence permits

Please contact the competent authority in your country of residence

### Exchange of a Swiss Driving License

 Please contact the competent authority in your country of residence. Your Swiss Embassy or Consulate can issue a translation/certification of a Swiss driver's license for a fee.

## Infomation about Switzerland – useful links

www.swissemigration.ch – living and working abraod
www.ch.ch – Gateway to Switzerland / general information on Switzerland
www.swissworld.org – Presence Switzerland, Bern
www.swissinfo.org – a branch of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation SRG SSR
www.zeitung.ch – links all major Swiss online newspapers
www.myswitzerland.com – Switzerland Tourism, Zurich
www.sbb.ch – Swiss federal railways
www.swiss.com – Swiss International Air Lines

#### **Political Information**

As a registered Swiss abroad you have the right and the possibility to take part in Swiss national votings and elections. On the websites of the FDFA (<a href="www.eda.admin.ch">www.eda.admin.ch</a>) and the Federal Chancellery (<a href="www.bk.admin.ch">www.bk.admin.ch</a>) you will find the following information:

- · Information for Swiss abroad with voting rights
- form for the registration as a Swiss abroad with voting rights
- form for renewing your voter's registration
- Link to the website of the OSA "difficulties when voting"
- Different respective publications of the Federal Chancellery
- Guidebook "Advice for Swiss abroad"

Political parties are important connectors between the public and the government in a democratic country like Switzerland. You can find more information on the Swiss political parties' at their following websites:

Evangelische Volkspartei der Schweiz	www.evppev.ch
FDP.Die Liberalen	www.fdp.ch
Eidgenössisch-Demokratische Union	www.edu-schweiz.ch
Partei der Arbeit der Schweiz	www.pda.ch
Christlichdemokratische Volkspartei der Schweiz	www.cvp.ch
Sozialdemokratische Partei der Schweiz	www.sp/ps.ch
Grüne - Grüne Partei der Schweiz	www.gruene.ch
Schweizerische Volkspartei	www.svp.ch
Christlich-Soziale Partei der Schweiz	www.csp-pcs.ch
Grünliberale Partei Schweiz	www.grunliberale.ch
Bürgerlich-Demokratische Partei Schweiz	www.bdp.info
Lega dei Ticinesi	www.legaticinesi.ch
Order in accordance to the registration with the Federal Chancery	